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SUMMARY OF COMMENTARY IN PRAVDA ON SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
(April 22 - May 21, 1981)

June 1981

Prepared by the Federal Research Division of
the Library of Congress under an interagency agreement

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PREFACE

This monthly survey compiles articles on sub-Saharan Africa which appear in Pravda. It has been prepared since April 1980. Pravda is the official newspaper of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Items published are presumably authoritative. Articles dealing with Soviet political, military, or economic interests in Africa are entirely translated or extensively excerpted or summarized. News accounts which heavily rely on news services of other countries are simply noted. All entries have been arranged chronologically under general African or country headings. FBIS translations are summarized or annotated for reader reference; duplication is avoided.

Summary of Commentary in Pravda on Sub-Saharan Africa

(22 April - 21 May 1981)*

AFRICA GENERAL

The USSR and the Developing Nations

(Summary) The authors of The Great October and Africa, published by Nauka in 1980, were given the task of researching the problems surrounding the application of the influential ideas of the Soviet revolution and everyday foreign policy of the USSR to the development and direction of the liberation processes on the African continent. Many questions remained unanswered but the book does conclude that close mutual ties and cooperation between the forces of socialism and the national liberation movements is the most important condition for the success of the anti-imperialist struggle and for achieving independence. (22 Apr 81, p. 4)

East African Cooperation

(Text) The second in a series of sessions of the Constitutional Committee of the Foreign Affairs Ministers of Ethiopia, Kenya, and Sudan is under way in Addis Ababa. This tripartite committee was created in Kenya in 1973 where the first session took place. The goal of the current session is to broaden regional cooperation among the three countries. (1 May 81, p. 4)

Statement on Regional Cooperation

(Text) The Conference of the Foreign Ministers of Ethiopia, Kenya, and Sudan ended with the signing of a joint statement to broaden multilateral regional cooperation. The participants of the conference confirmed their adherence to the principles of respect for national sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity, and noninterference in each other's internal affairs. (2 May 81, p. 4)

UN Economic and Social Council Decrees

(Excerpts) The Economic and Social Council of the United Nations condemned the gross and continuing worldwide violations of human rights and freedoms perpetrated by capitalism. It also pledged firm support for national liberation struggles opposing racism, racial discrimination, colonialism, and foreign domination. (8 May 81, p. 4)

Conspiracy by the United States and China

(Summary) According to a secret study prepared by the American Central Intelligence Agency and disclosed in the Washington Post by Jack Anderson, the United States and China have agreed to cooperate in an anti-Soviet campaign in Africa. The Chinese intend to provide arms and military support to reactionary groups opposed to the governments in Africa that have good relations with the Soviet Union. (11 May 81, p. 5)

*Edition of 20 May not received.

Antiapartheid Conference

(Summary) An international conference opposed to the apartheid racial system in the Republic of South Africa has completed its work in Lusaka, Zambia. After discussing the current situation in southern Africa, the participants concluded that the greatest threat to regional peace and safety was the racist regime in Pretoria. The delegates also condemned the two-handed policy of the Western nations that criticized the racists in word but supported them in deed. (12 May 81, p. 4)

SOVIET INTERESTS IN AFRICA

Solidarity Declaration

(Excerpt) The Soviet Committee for Solidarity with the countries of Asia and Africa declared in a statement that the racist authorities in the Republic of South Africa had increased their aggressive activities--mass repression--in an attempt to put a brake on the growth of the national liberation patriots in Namibia. (16 May 81, p. 4)

Soviet Opposition to Neocolonialism

(Excerpt) On the continent of Africa colonialism has been replaced by neo-colonialism, which is the imperialists' attempt to plunder the natural resources of the least developed countries and turn them into military-political bridgeheads. The imperialist plunder in Africa is delaying seriously its development. But, it is well known that the Soviet Union's policy is diametrically opposite to the aspirations of imperialism. The USSR has always sided with the peoples struggling for independence and advocates the elimination of unequal rights and discrimination in international trade. (17 May 81, p. 4 and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #097, 20 May 1981, pp. CC1-2)

US INTERESTS IN AFRICA

Crocker's Trip a Failure

(Summary) The trip by C. Crocker, adviser to the American Secretary of State for African Affairs, ended in failure. Washington's envoy did not succeed in fulfilling a single task set because the new administration's policy in Africa, which is aimed at rapprochement with the racists in the Republic of South Africa, is condemned by practically all independent countries on the continent. (27 Apr 81, p. 5 and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #084, 1 May 81, p. J1)

Veto of UN Sanctions Proposal

(Excerpt) The United States and its Western allies have come to the defense of the South African racist regime by vetoing in the United Nations resolutions being considered by the Security Council demanding the imposition of compulsory all-embracing sanctions against Pretoria. (2 May 81, p. 5 and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #087, 6 May 81, pp. CC3-4)

Indian Ocean

(Summary) The Tanzanian newspaper the Daily Times criticized the obstructionist position of the United States and its Western allies at the recent session of the United Nations' Specialist Committee on the Indian Ocean. Employing tactics that delay the committee's work, the United States increases its military presence in the region. (5 May 81, p. 1)

Mobil Oil Castigated

(Excerpt) A group of American jurists condemned the Mobil Oil Company for its violation of the United Nations-imposed trade embargo in force against Rhodesia, now independent Zimbabwe. (7 May 81, p. 1)

Clark Amendment Defeated

(Excerpts) The Senate Foreign Relations Committee has kowtowed to the Reagan Administration and approved the proposal on lifting the ban on American intelligence organs' subversive operations in Angola. It was no accident that the voting in the committee coincided with the arrival in the United States of South African Foreign Minister P. Botha. (15 May 81, p. 5 and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #099, 22 May 81, pp. A3-4)

Demonstration in Nigeria

(Text) A demonstration was held in front of the American Embassy in Nigeria against the United States' interference in the internal affairs of African states and its support for the racist regime in the Republic of South Africa. (16 May 81, p. 1)

Botha's Visit

(Summary) P. Botha, Foreign Minister of the Republic of South Africa, visited Washington and was received by President Reagan. Their friendly meeting covered a wide range of issues and, according to the Washington Post, ushered in a radical change in relations between the two countries. (18 May 81, p. 5)

ANGOLA

Literacy Campaign

(Excerpt) The People's Republic of Angola has undertaken the next stage of its drive to liquidate illiteracy. By the end of this year more than a half a million workers, peasants, and soldiers will have taken courses offered during the campaign. (22 Apr 81, p. 5)

Document of the MPLA-Labor Party Politburo

(Summary) The Politburo of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) - Labor Party has produced a document which reviews the results of party activities since the First Extraordinary Congress held in December 1981.

The document notes that disorganization, lack of responsibility, and poor discipline still are observed in party and government work. Along with further developing the government sector and establishing an economic plan, the government and people must launch a frontal attack against internal counterrevolution. The enemies of Angola are exploiting economic difficulties and mistakes in the government apparatus to arouse antigovernment propaganda and destabilize the regime. (24 Apr 81, p. 5)

Heros Commemorated

(Excerpt) The Provincial Commissariat of the Angolan capital, on the recommendation of the Central Committee of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) - Labor Party, changed the names of 156 principal street, squares, and parks to commemorate the champions of Marxism-Leninism. (7 May 81, p. 1)

Angolan Ambassador in Moscow

(Summary) On 6 May, B. N. Ponomarev, Secretary of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, held a friendly conversation with the Ambassador from Angola, L. P. de Castro, and discussed questions relating to furthering cooperation between both countries. (7 May 81, p. 4 and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #092, 13 May 81, p. J6)

New Factory

(Excerpt) A new factory for the processing of diamonds was opened in the Angolan province of North Lunda. (13 May 81, p. 4)

CONGO

Visit by Congolese President Planned

(Text) President of the People's Republic of the Congo, Head of State, and Chairman of the Council of Ministers, Denis Sassou-Nguesso will head a party and government delegation on an official friendly visit to the Soviet Union in the middle of May. He will come at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and the Soviet Government. (3 May 81, p. 1)

Theoretical Colloquium

(Excerpt) In accordance with the plan for party ties between the Congolese Labor Party and the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, a Soviet-Congolese colloquium is taking place in Brazzaville on the subject "Lenin's Teaching and the Liberated Peoples' Struggle for Political and Economic Independence." (5 May 81, p. 4 and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #091, 12 May 81, p. J1)

Concern Over Imperialist Aggression

(Excerpt) The Central Committee of the Congolese Labor Party expressed its concern over the increasing imperialist aggression against people who are striving for freedom, independence, peace, and social progress. (6 May 81, p. 4)

Biography of Denis Sassou-Nguesso

(Summary) D. Sassou-Nguesso, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Congolese Labor Party and President of the People's Republic of the Congo, is scheduled to arrive today in the USSR on an official visit. Born in 1943, he entered the armed forces in 1961 and rose to the rank of colonel. D. Sassou-Nguesso was a colleague of the distinguished governmental and political figure Marien Ngouabi, who was the founder of the Congolese Labor Party that seeks to bring to bear the principles of scientific socialism to the development of the Congolese nation. D. Sassou-Nguesso was involved in the revolution of 1963 which overthrew the neocolonialist regime. In 1968, he became a member of the National Revolutionary Council, and at the Third Extraordinary Congress of the Congolese Labor Party in 1979, he was elected Chairman of the Central Committee. At that time he also became the country's President and Commander in Chief.

Under his leadership, transformations in the socioeconomic fields have taken place in the Congo that have benefited the interests of a broad strata of society. And in the field of foreign policy, D. Sassou-Nguesso has guided the Congo on an anti-imperialist and anticolonialist course, as well as actively participating in the affairs of the Organization of African Unity and the Non-aligned Movement. (12 May 81, p. 1)

Depth of Congolese Progressivism

[V. Volkov, a Pravda correspondent, by means of an interview with the director of the Congolese Labor Party's political school, portrays the recent political and economic history of the Congo as a steady movement along an increasingly progressive path. (12 May 81, p. 5)]

Congolese President Arrives

(Summary) Denis Sassou-Nguesso, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Congolese Labor Party and President of the People's Republic of the Congo, today arrived here at the invitation of the Soviet Communist Party and Government. He and his party and state delegation were met at the airport by L. I. Brezhnev and other Soviet dignitaries. (13 May 81, p. 1)

Dinner at Kremlin Palace

(Summary) At a dinner given in honor of President D. Sassou-Nguesso, L. I. Brezhnev gave a speech in which he welcomed the Congolese delegation and referred to the Congo as a country that represents the new, free Africa--the community of young states proceeding along the path of political and social progress. The Congolese President gave a reply speech thanking the Soviets for their hospitality and their support against colonialism and oppression. (13 May 81, p. 2)

Kremlin Talks

(Text) On 13 May, talks were held between L. I. Brezhnev and D. Sassou-Nguesso in the Kremlin. There was an exchange of opinion on a series of questions of mutual interest. The talks were held in a friendly and cooperative atmosphere. (14 May 81, p. 1)

Treaty Signed

(Excerpt) A treaty of friendship and cooperation between the USSR and the Congo was signed in the Kremlin by L. I. Brezhnev and D. Sassou-Nguesso. They also signed an agreement on cooperation between the Soviet Communist Party and the Congolese Labor Party. (14 May 81, p. 1) [The complete text of the treaty, including preamble and 15 articles, also was published. (14 May 81, p. 1)]

Kremlin Talks End

(Excerpt) Soviet-Congolese negotiations ended today in the Kremlin. (14 May 81, p. 1)

Sassou-Nguesso's Press Conference

(Summary) At a press conference held in Moscow, D. Sassou-Nguesso stated that the friendship treaty he signed with the USSR demonstrates that excellent relations exist between the two countries and that those relations will continue to develop successfully. (14 May 81, p. 2)

Congolese Delegation Departs Moscow

(Summary) President D. Sassou-Nguesso flew to Leningrad from Moscow on 14 May. The Congolese delegation was seen off at the airport in Moscow by L. I. Brezhnev and other officials. (15 May 81, p. 1) The delegation was greeted in Leningrad by G. V. Romanov, First Secretary of the Leningrad Communist Party. (15 May 81, p. 4)

Delegation in Leningrad

(Summary) The Congolese delegation led by President D. Sassou-Nguesso was received by Grigoriy Romanov, First Secretary of the Leningrad Communist Party. Talks were held and then the delegation did some sightseeing. (16 May 81, p. 4)

Talks in Moscow

(Summary) At the invitation of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party and Soviet Government, Denis Sassou-Nguesso, Chairman of the Congolese Labor Party Central Committee, President of the People's Republic of the Congo, and Chairman of the Council of Ministers, was in the Soviet Union from 12 through 17 May on an official friendly visit at the head of a party and state delegation. In the course of his stay, the Congolese leader held talks with L. I. Brezhnev and other prominent Soviet officials. During the talks there was an

examination of the state and prospects for the development of relations between the two countries, the situation in Africa, and questions of mutual interest. The Congolese delegation emphasized during its meetings that it intends to continue firmly to follow an anti-imperialist, anticolonial course in its foreign policy, intensify the socioeconomic transformations of its revolution, and consolidate the economic independence of its country. Both participants in the talks noted with satisfaction that Soviet-Congolese relations are steadily strengthening and developing and toward this end the sides concluded a treaty on friendship and cooperation. (18 May 81, pp. 1, 4 and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #099, 22 May 81, pp. J1-J5)

Delegation Departs

(Excerpt) The Congolese delegation headed by Denis Sassou-Nguesso, President of the People's Republic of the Congo, left the Soviet Union from Pulkovo Airport in Leningrad. (18 May 81, p. 1)

Telegram to Brezhnev

(Summary) Congolese President Denis Sassou-Nguesso addressed a telegram to L. I. Brezhnev from onboard his plane expressing gratitude for the friendly and hospitable welcome he and his delegation received while in the Soviet Union. (18 May 81, p. 2)

Congolese Delegation Arrives in Bulgaria

(Excerpt) The Congolese delegation headed by D. Sassou-Nguesso, President of the People's Republic of the Congo, arrived in Sofia on an official visit. (18 May 81, p. 5)

Historical Significance of Treaty

(Excerpt) The Congolese Labor Party's newspaper, Etumba, characterized the recently initialed treaty of friendship and cooperation with the USSR as historically significant and one in which the aspirations of both friendly peoples were conveyed. (19 May 81, p. 4)

Malagasy Reaction to Treaty

(Excerpt) The treaty of friendship and cooperation signed by the USSR and the People's Republic of the Congo meets the interests of all progressive peoples, including the developing nations, emphasized the Malagasy newspaper Atrika. (19 May 81, p. 4)

DJIBOUTI

Interview with President Hassan Gouled Aptidon

(Excerpts) The President of Djibouti, in his conversation with our correspondent [A. Serbin], declared himself satisfied with the diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and his nation and the Soviet Union's relations with the

young states of Africa. He also reiterated his nation's policy of neutrality in the troubled Horn of Africa and emphasized his belief that constructive dialog was the best means of resolving the dispute between Ethiopia and Somalia. (11 May 81, p. 6)

ETHIOPIA

Soviet Education Exhibit

(Text) The exhibit "Higher Education in the USSR" opened in the Ethiopian capital. Numerous displays tell of the development and organization of education in the Soviet Union. On the walls are various instruments designed by students and graduates of the M. I. Kalinin Polytechnical Institute in Leningrad. (1 May 81, p. 1)

Role of the Workers' Party

(Text) The working masses of the country observe 1 May as a symbol of the struggle to implement the decisions of the Second Plenum of the Central Committee Commission to Organize the Ethiopian Workers' Party which are directed at serious socioeconomic transformations. The Ethiopian press is writing about the important role of the working class in realizing these changes. (1 May 81, p. 5)

Mengistu's Speech

(Text) May Day was observed with a meeting and mass demonstration of workers in Addis Ababa's Revolutionary Square. In a speech at the meeting, PMAC Chairman and Chairman of the Commission to Organize the Ethiopian Workers' Party Mengistu Haile Mariam noted the successes achieved by the Ethiopian people in recent years. He declared Ethiopia's support for the summons to struggle for peace, announced at the 26th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and party congresses in other socialist countries. (2 May 81, p. 5)

KENYA

Student Demonstration

(Excerpt) There was a mass demonstration by students protesting the closing of the university located in the capital, Nairobi. The demonstrators were dispersed by police employing physical force and arrests. (19 May 81, p. 1)

MAURITANIA

Exchange of Telegrams

(Summary) N. A. Tikhonov, Chairman of the Council of Ministers, sent a telegram to Mauritania's Prime Minister Maouya Ould Sidi Ahmed Taya on his assumption to that post. In a reply telegram, the Prime Minister expressed his appreciation. (21 May 81, p. 2)

MOZAMBIQUE

May Day Preparations

(Text) Active preparation for the 1 May holiday took place in the People's Republic of Mozambique. A week of "shock" work throughout the country is dedicated to the holiday. (26 Apr 81, p. 1)

Intergovernmental Commission

(Excerpt) From 18 to 20 May the Soviet-Mozambican Commission on Economic and Technological Cooperation and Trade met for the first time in Moscow. (21 May 81, p. 4)

NAMIBIA

Request to Security Council

(Excerpt) At the request of African nations, the Security Council of the United Nations will consider the question of Namibia in view of the fact that the racist regime in Pretoria refuses to free this illegally occupied territory. Negotiations with the Republic of South Africa have gone on for 3 years with no results. Inspired by the United States and other Western powers, the South African racists have used the negotiations as a means of consolidating their position in Namibia. (23 Apr 81, p. 4)

UN Delegates Insist on Sanctions

(Summary) The United States and its allies which support the South African racist regime are isolated completely in the United Nations' Security Council discussions on Namibia. Contrary to the American position, all the delegates who have spoken to date at the Security Council session insist on applying universal and comprehensive sanctions against Pretoria and compelling it to give up illegally occupied territory. (24 Apr 81, p. 5)

SWAPO Operations in Namibia

(Excerpt) Patriots of the South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO) conducted a large-scale military operation on Namibian territory illegally occupied by the South African racists. The partisans attacked a military garrison in the city of Shumeba, site of the largest mining complex in the country. Commander of the South African occupying forces, General C. Lloyd, admitted that considerable damage was done to the local garrison. A SWAPO statement distributed here notes that similar operations on Namibian territory will take place in the future. (26 Apr 81, p. 5)

Western Veto of UN Sanctions

(Excerpts) The United States and its Western allies came to the defense of the racist regime of the Republic of South Africa by lodging a veto in the Security Council against a resolution calling for compulsory universal sanctions against Pretoria.

The USSR Permanent Representative at the United Nations O. A. Troyanovsky said that today, we have become witnesses to the crying injustices against the Namibian people and to the further connivances of the South African racists who have once again gained opportunities and time to strengthen the puppet regime in Namibia. (2 May 81, p. 5)

Campaign to Save Marcus Kateka

(Excerpt) The Central Committee of the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) meeting in Angola declared its support for the international campaign of solidarity to save the life of the Namibian patriot Marcus Kateka who was given a death sentence by a racist court in the Republic of South Africa. (11 May 81, p. 5)

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

South African Elections

(Summary) The recent South African elections are discussed. Only 12 million out of a total of 28 million South Africans were allowed to vote. (2 May 81, p. 5)

Parliamentary Elections

(Excerpt) A parliamentary election was held in the Republic of South Africa. As is well known, the more than 80 percent of the electorate who are black are denied political rights and are turned away from the ballot boxes. (6 May 81, p. 5)

British Appeal for Sanctions

(Excerpt) In accordance with the drive to halt the import of South African goods, a British antiapartheid organization demanded that sanctions be imposed against the regime in Pretoria. (19 May 81, p. 1)

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

Party School Opened

(Excerpt) A national party [Movement for the Liberation of the Islands of Sao Tome and Principe] school was opened. (10 May 81, p. 5)

SEYCHELLES

Cultural Celebration

(Excerpt) The first seminar, since independence, dedicated to the cultural heritage of the country was held in the capital, Victoria. (15 May 81, p. 5)

Zone of Peace

[A. Serbin, one of Pravda's correspondents in Africa, writes in general and in glowing terms about the Republic of the Seychelles--"the most exotic and unusual state in the world"--and discovers that the inhabitants want the United States to withdraw militarily from the Indian Ocean so as to make possible a zone of peace. (18 May 81, p. 6)]

SIERRA LEONE

Pictures of Sierra Leone

[Special Pravda correspondent P. Barashev briefly describes the geography and recent history of Sierra Leone. Photographs accompanying the text include a picture of Soviet doctors working in Sierra Leone. (27 Apr 81, p. 6)]

TANZANIA

Parliamentarians Visit Leningrad

(Summary) The Tanzanian parliamentary delegation headed by Adam Sapi Mkwawa, Speaker of the National Assembly, arrived in Volgograd and toured historic and industrial sites. (22 Apr 81, p. 4)

Visit by Parliamentarians

(Summary) From 17 to 23 April, a delegation from the Tanzanian National Assembly, invited here by the Soviet Supreme Soviet, has been in the USSR on an official visit. Aside from Moscow, the Tanzanian visitors have traveled to Volgograd and the Azerbaidzhan Republic. (23 Apr 81, p. 4)

Parliamentarians Return to Moscow

(Excerpt) On 22 April, the Tanzanian Assembly delegation returned to Moscow after touring the country and was greeted by Ye. E. Polyakov, Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium. (23 Apr 81, p. 4)

Tanzanian Delegation Leaves USSR

(Text) On 23 April, a delegation of the National Assembly of the United Republic of Tanzania headed by Speaker of the Assembly Adam Sapi Mkwawa departed from the Soviet Union. The delegation was here on an official visit at the invitation of the Supreme Soviet. (24 April 81, p. 4)

Troops Withdrawn for Uganda

(Text) A detachment of Tanzanian troops, stationed on the territory of Uganda since 1979 after the liberation war against the dictator Idi Amin, returned home. (4 May 81, p. 1)

UGANDA

Tanzanian Troop Withdrawal

[See item under Tanzania for 4 May.]

ZAIRE

Soviet Parliamentary Delegation

(Excerpt) A Supreme Soviet delegation headed by A. S. Barkauskas, Deputy Chairman of that body, left for an official visit to Zaire. (13 May 81, p. 4)

Parliamentarians' Visit Continues

(Excerpt) The Supreme Soviet delegation headed by A. S. Barkauskas met with their counterparts in Kinshasa and later met with President Mobutu. (15 May 81, p. 4)

Parliamentarians Continue Discussions

(Excerpt) The Supreme Soviet delegation headed by A. S. Barkauskas met with Nsinga Udzhuwa Ongvabeki Untubi, the First State Commissioner. (21 May 81, p. 4)

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Statement

(Text) President of Zambia and Chairman of the United National Independence Party (UNIP) K. Kaunda stated that his country supports the removal of the threat of war hanging over the world, the reduction of international tension by widening and deepening detente, and complete disarmament, as proposed by the Soviet Union at the 26th Soviet Communist Party Congress.

Speaking at the First Extraordinary Session of the UNIP National Council, Kaunda noted that statements coming out of Washington serve, above all, as a dangerous signal to accelerate the arms race. (24 Apr 81, p. 1)

Soviet-Zambian Party Ties

(Text) The 1981 and 1982 plan for interparty ties between the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Zambian United National Independence Party (UNIP) was signed. UNIP Central Committee member R. Kamanga stated that the signing of such an important document is a new step forward on the path of strengthening relations between the two parties. (1 May 81, p. 4)

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe Interview

(Summary) In an interview with a Soviet journalist, Zimbabwe Prime Minister R. Mugabe praises Soviet initiative in the liberation wars. Mugabe expresses the desire of the government and people of Zimbabwe to establish diplomatic relations with the USSR. (28 Apr 81, p. 5)